

**Remarks**

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

**Allowable Claims**

Claims 16-18 and 24-26 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant has amended independent claims 16 and 24 to incorporate the respective base claims and independent claims. All claims in the application now depend from an allowable claim. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

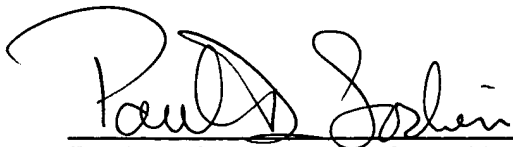
**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103**

The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103.

As all claims have been placed in allowable form, Applicant submits that these rejections have been rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

Applicant believes all claims are in allowable condition. A notice of allowance for this application is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number listed below. The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any balances under 37 CFR §§1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-3038.

Respectfully submitted,



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